

**IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: Michael C. Stewart, et al.  
APPLICATION NO.: 10/602,490  
FILING DATE: June 23, 2003  
TITLE: Apparatus and Method for Integrated Vessel Ligator and Transector  
EXAMINER: Vi X. Nguyen  
GROUP ART UNIT: 3734  
ATTY. DKT. NO.: 26448-07311

**CERTIFICATE OF EFS-WEB TRANSMISSION**

|  |                              |         |
|--|------------------------------|---------|
| Pursuant to 240 OG 45 and the <i>Legal Framework For EFS-Web</i> , I hereby certify that this follow-on correspondence is being officially submitted through the USPTO EFS-Web system from the Pacific Time Zone of the United States on the local date shown below. |                              |         |
| Signature:   | /Albert C. Smith/            | Dated:  |
| Typed or Printed Name:   | Albert C. Smith, Reg. 20,355 | 3/19/09 |

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**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION UNDER  
37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

Sir:

In response to the final action dated January 16, 2009, and to the Advisory Action dated February 25, 2009, received in the patent application identified above, please amend the claims as indicated herein.